

# SOCIALISTS IN ENGLAND ARE STEADFAST AND CONSISTENT

Staunch for the Co-operative Commonwealth.

SAY THEIR IDEAS SPREAD

Their Activity is Not Confined to Political Movement—Have Strong Influential Club Which is Eminent Practical in its Work.

(Special Correspondence of The Times-Dispatch, Copyright, 1903, by the Author.)

LONDON, Sept. 12.—Although there are many radicals and labor leaders in England who have their doubts as to the best course to take in the present crisis of trades unionism, there is one party that has no misgivings of any sort. This is the socialist party.

In good reputations, in victory and defeat, whatever the crisis or the issue, this party stands steadfast and proclaims that it points the only way to the salvation of the world.

The English socialist has no faith in the "labor party." It persistently insists that to elect men labeled "labor" who are no more than the tools of the great mass of men ever hears its will.

One thing can be said of the socialists: throughout all the years they have been consistent, they have been faithful, they have been optimistic.

Over and over again its leaders have gathered the little flock together and pointed to the promised land only a few leagues away; over and over again they have set the time when the devoted band should enter in; and over and over again the day has come when the strong band has lived and seen just as well and secure as they have ever been.

True it is that the faithful have so often prepared their ascension robes and then painfully laid them by for some future day, that many of the devoted begin to doubt the "time setters," who fix the dates; but in spite of this they work away doggedly, regardless of whether anything shall come in the generation or not.

With or without this stage of socialism has grown to be a religion, a part of their very being, and they cling to it with the devotion and fervor of some ancient grandmother who carries the leaves of the old Bible by whose light she has lived so long, and by whose promises she feels that she soon must die.

If you ask the English socialist how the movement is progressing in Great Britain he will not admit that he is disappointed at its growth, or that it is slow of growth. He will apologize and explain as to why he cannot point to more votes that the party has cast, but he stoutly insists that the future is surely his.

As a matter of fact, in the ordinary meaning of the word, there is no socialist movement in Great Britain. They put up no candidates; they cast no votes; they are not counted; they live by the force of their ideas, by their work, which, in a sense, is lost, or rather assimilated with the great mass of English life.

Still, in spite of this, the socialists insist that their ideas are rapidly spreading in England, and this claim is doubtless true. A brave and persistent band of men and women have for years been engaged in a ceaseless struggle to give the trades unions should take up socialism was barely lost, and Mr. McDonald, the secretary of the London Trade Council, assured me to-day that there was probably not a trade union in England at this time that would refuse to pass any resolution presented to its body.

The severe handling that trade unions have received in the courts has done much to bring the English workmen to believe that after all the labor question is purely a class struggle, and that the modern industrialism must control the world, or the men who work must control. They are fast coming to believe that if they should elect their members of Parliament and their judges the law would be made and construed to give the law to the present generation of men, and to give the products of labor to the workman, and for this reason they see that while the other class make the laws and construe them, they must expect that they, too, will remain true to their class.

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large and influential bodies of men who believe that the political movement which is already in progress in Great Britain should be a straight socialist movement, and have nothing to do with such expedients as "labor parties." In a class is heard the statement that socialism means something historically and really; that "labor" means nothing, and a victory gained under its banner would leave the common people no further on than now.

In addition to the other socialists that urge the workingmen to take the great victory in Germany has made a profound impression. The Englishmen are asking themselves why they should be behind in the only international movement for the elevation of the workingman, and they compare their position with humility and regret.

In the present and in the past England has not been wanting in great names in the socialist ranks, and the attainments of these men, if nothing else, has given the movement a substance and respect in England which it has never had with us. Unfortunately, the socialists have for years been much divided in England, or the political movement would doubtless be more advanced.

Socialists are very independent and self-contained people; they have their own views and opinions and do not take kindly to the rule of caucus and convention. Every socialist believes that his judgment is just as good as, and considerably better than, that of any one else, and he, therefore, has the right to lead and the rest can do the following. The English socialists are split into factions and fragments. Years ago, in the days of the greatest of these party was away under the leadership of the poet and artist, William Morris White; another followed Mr. H. Hyndman. Although this was long ago, and the great artist has been dead for many years, the split has never yet healed up.

unborn are worthy of some consideration. It is the Socialist's activity in England is by no means confined to the political movement. The Fabians have long had a very strong and influential society in Great Britain. This club is made up of able men and women who are thoroughly informed and who are well qualified to maintain their views. They take no hand in politics as a society, but give their aid in every direction, when anything can be accomplished for their cause. This club is eminently practical. It has published and circulated much of the best literature devoted to the Socialist cause. It has amongst its members such men as Sidney Webb, one of the ablest and most industrious writers and workers for advanced ideas; Mr. Bernard Shaw, the essayist, play writer and all-round writer, as clever a man as there is in the British empire, or anywhere else for that matter; Mr. J. H. Hobson and Mr. Samuel Hobson, both men of ability and learning, as well as a host of others, whose names can scarcely be catalogued. Through these and others of their sort socialism in some form has permeated the literature of Great Britain until it is now met at every turn.

In politics, in literature, in art, in business life, the Socialist has made his way; the orator talks about it, the minister preaches it, the artist makes pictures, and the business man gives it cash—this is all the business man has to give.

It is easy to see that socialism is much further along in England than in America; no one here is thought to be "queer" because he is a Socialist. There are several self-confessed Socialists in Parliament. There are a number of members in the National Liberal Club. They have attained eminence in all walks of life and command respect and consideration wherever they go.

In another respect the English are much further advanced toward radical political change. The farmer is a man of no consequence in England; five-sixths of her people at least are industrial workers, living in great cities and towns and in no way interested in the present order of things. Even those who are in the country, who are mostly women, and have no interest in the land; this is owned in great estates by a few noblemen, for whom no one really cares.

## TO BE BRENT OR HANKINS

Popular Men in Race for State Librarian.

BOARD MEETS TO-MORROW

Other Candidates May Be Presented But the Contest Is Thought to Be Between the Two Named Above.

It may be said that almost consuming public interest centers around the contest for State Librarian, which will be settled by the new Library Board at a meeting to be held in this city to-morrow, the two leading candidates, Messrs. Frank P. Brent and J. G. Hankins, both being men of widespread popularity and political influence.

To have the public fully understand the status of the case, it should be stated that the incumbent, Mr. W. W. Scott, who has held the place for many years, has recently resigned, to take effect on October 1st, having been named by the judges of the Supreme Court to be in charge of the State Law Library.

The resignation of Mr. Scott left vacant a good berth, whose salary is \$1,000 per year, and no less than a dozen aspirants at once entered the race. But some of them did not long remain in the contest. About two months ago the new Library Board created by the recent Constitutional Convention and composed of Messrs. S. E. Patterson and J. A. C. Chidley, Richard B. Harrison and Arnold C. Gordon, of Staunton; T. S. Garnett, of Norfolk, and John W. Fishburne, of Charlottesville, held a meeting here and prescribed certain drastic rules for the government of the institution, and di-



MR. F. P. BRENT.

rected that the person chosen should measure up to a certain standard of proficiency before he should be eligible to election to the position.

MR. HANKINS DID IT. The resolution was offered by Hon. S. E. Patterson, of this city, who has some advanced ideas on the subject of the management of libraries, and it went through without objection. The effect of the adoption of the resolution was to practically eliminate from the contest all who did not acquire the technical knowledge required on the subject of cataloging, etc., and the race is now thought to be between Messrs. Brent and Hankins, who immediately went to a technical library school in Amherst, Mass., and took the course which fits them for the work.

It is hard to conjecture who will win, as both men have strong backing, both among the educational and public men of the State, but it may be added that either will make an up-to-date librarian and will reflect credit upon the position if chosen.

FRANK PIERCE BRENT is about fifty years of age and is a native of Nelson county, having sprung from fine old Virginia stock on both sides of his family. Captain Brent was given a good education by his father, having graduated from the University of Virginia with high honors. Soon after leaving school he settled in Accomac county, where he established and conducted for years a preparatory school for boys, and some of the most distinguished young men in Eastern Virginia were his pupils.

In 1880 Captain Brent was a candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, and, having withdrawn from the contest, was made Secretary of the State Board of Education, which position he now fills.

MR. J. G. HANKINS. After being rough hewn and bolted together the outside of the little vessel is worked into shape, and right here is where the individualism of each builder shows. The outside complete, attention is turned to the inside, which is hewn and duffed to about two and a half to three inches thick. As much or as little time as the builder wishes may be put upon the hull finish, the matter of taste governing. The canoe rig is generally a single-sticker, with one foremast and one gib. The mast is stepped with a considerable rake aft, and the sails are made of sharp-pointed, triangular or "leg-of-mutton" shape, the procew would term it.

It takes no small amount of skill and mechanical ingenuity to build a good canoe. The talent in this line seems to run in certain families, hereditary as it were, and a matter of family pride. A great deal of the rough hewing is done entirely by the eye, without the slightest mechanical aid, except possibly a rule to designate the length.

## FINEST OF ALL CRAFT

The Virginia Canoe Cannot Be Excelled for Good Points

EVOLUTION OF BIRCH-BARK

They Are Made of Three Logs, and Some Times as Many as Nine, Bolted Together—Takes Skill and Ingenuity to Build One.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) YORKTOWN, VA., Sept. 18.—Of all the craft that plow the main, there's naught like the Virginia canoe. For general seaworthy qualities, ability to stand any amount of weather when properly handled and veritable works of wonder in the line of speed, they stand out pre-eminent among the world's productions in shipbuilding.

From all information the canoe of the present day is distinctly an American production, owing its origin without a doubt to the frail birch bark creations of the children of the forest, the American aborigines. Of native design, native stock and native workmanship, this species of small craft deserves as much of the plaudits of the world as the good sloop, which recently showed that she could be relied upon to hold the American's cup and demonstrate that even our cougars across the water.

The Virginia canoe is of peculiar construction, being built entirely of logs hewn to shape. The trees used in the construction are the long tag yellow pine, no other wood being desirable or usable, which are fast becoming unobtainable, owing to the great demand. In size they run from the diminutive youngster of twenty feet, hardly fit for rowing but play, to the giant craft, forty or fifty feet long, ten to eleven feet wide and four to six feet deep, which, if properly manned and provisioned, could easily make the trip across the great pond to London town.

The smaller sizes are usually built of three logs, fitted and shaped, held together by long galvanized bolt rods, running transversely its entire width. The larger sizes contain seven, nine, eleven or even more "chunks," the number, of course, being governed entirely by the size of the trees.

INDIVIDUALISM. After being rough hewn and bolted together the outside of the little vessel is worked into shape, and right here is where the individualism of each builder shows. The outside complete, attention is turned to the inside, which is hewn and duffed to about two and a half to three inches thick. As much or as little time as the builder wishes may be put upon the hull finish, the matter of taste governing. The canoe rig is generally a single-sticker, with one foremast and one gib. The mast is stepped with a considerable rake aft, and the sails are made of sharp-pointed, triangular or "leg-of-mutton" shape, the procew would term it.

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DEMAND DECREASING. The canoe is the especial favorite of the oysterman, and it is as much a part and parcel of the oyster business as the human hand is a portion of the anatomy. After reaching fifty feet in length or over and with the addition of an extra mast the vessel becomes either a tug-eye or barge, according to the cut of her sails, either square or sharp. These are also favorites with the oysterman, but designate a higher element of the longer, who look down on their brethren of the canoe as small potatoes.

The better class of druggists, everywhere, are men of scientific attainments and high integrity, who devote their lives to the welfare of their fellow men in supplying the best of remedies and purest medicinal agents of known value, in accordance with physicians' prescriptions and scientific formula. Druggists of the better class manufacture many excellent remedies, but always under original or official names and they never sell false brands, or imitation medicines. They are the men to deal with when in need of anything in their line, which usually includes all standard remedies and corresponding adjuncts of a first-class pharmacy and the finest and best of toilet articles and preparations and many useful accessories and remedial appliances. The earning of a fair living, with the satisfaction which arises from a knowledge of the benefits conferred upon their patrons and assistance to the medical profession, is usually their greatest reward for long years of study and many hours of daily toil. They all know that Syrup of Figs is an excellent laxative remedy and that it gives universal satisfaction, and therefore they are selling many millions of bottles annually to the well informed purchasers of the choicest remedies, and they always take pleasure in handing out the genuine article bearing the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package. They know that in cases of colds and headaches attended by biliousness and constipation, or of weakness or torpidity of the liver and bowels, arising from irregular habits, indigestion, or over-eating, that there is no other remedy so pleasant, prompt and beneficial in its effects as Syrup of Figs, and they are glad to sell it because it gives universal satisfaction.

Owing to the excellence of Syrup of Figs, the universal satisfaction which it gives and the immense demand for it, imitations have been made, tried and condemned, but there are individual druggists to be found, here and there, who do not maintain the dignity and principles of the profession and whose greed gets the better of their judgment, and who do not hesitate to recommend and try to sell the imitations in order to make a larger profit. Such preparations sometimes have the name—"Syrup of Figs"—or "Fig Syrup"—and of some piratical concern, or fictitious fig syrup company, printed on the package, but they never have the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of the package. The imitations should be rejected because they are injurious to the system. In order to sell the imitations they find it necessary to resort to misrepresentation or deception, and whenever a dealer passes off on a customer a preparation under the name of "Syrup of Figs" or "Fig Syrup," which does not bear the full name of the California Fig Syrup Co. printed on the front of the package, he is attempting to deceive and mislead the patron who has been so unfortunate as to enter his establishment, whether it be large or small, for if the dealer resorts to misrepresentation and deception in one case he will do so with other medicinal agents, and in the filling of physicians' prescriptions, and should be avoided by every one who values health and happiness. Knowing that the great majority of druggists are reliable, we supply the immense demand for our excellent remedy entirely through the druggists, of whom it may be purchased everywhere, in original packages only, at the regular price of fifty cents per bottle, but as exceptions exist it is necessary to inform the public of the facts, in order that all may decline or return any imitation which may be sold to them. If it does not bear the name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—printed on the front of every package, do not hesitate to return the article and to demand the return of your money, and in future go to one of the better class of druggists who will sell you what you wish and the best of everything in his line at reasonable prices.

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